

We claim:

1. An appliance suitable for refreshing/cleaning cloth items in a refreshing/cleaning cycle, said appliance comprising a collapsible or expandable container that is made from a material that defines an interior void space, said appliance further comprising a container opening, a humidity provider, a heating element, at least one vent and/or filter, and an air circulation device, wherein said appliance comprises a means to prevent accidental opening of the appliance's container by the user while a refreshing/cleaning cycle is running.

2. An appliance according to claim 1, wherein said means comprises a visual working indicator.

3. An appliance according to claim 2, wherein said visual working indicator is achieved by a lamp placed inside the appliance's container, whose light passes through the container's walls, which is lit during the refreshing/cleaning cycle.

4. An appliance according to claim 3, wherein said lamp intensity is given by an automatic controller that changes the light intensity all along the refreshing/cleaning cycle.

5. An appliance according to claim 4, wherein said means comprises a VFD or LCD display indicator.

6. An appliance according to claim 5, wherein said means comprises a sound working indicator that is emitted during the refreshing/cleaning cycle.

7. An appliance according to claim 6, wherein the intensity of said sound is not higher than 70 dB.

8. An appliance according to claim 7, which further comprises a locking mechanism to secure the appliance's container in locked position while a cleaning/refreshing cycle is running